

Adult System of Care Recognizes Wellness Outreach Workers

By Isabel Mendez, ASOC WOW Coordinator



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Adult System of Care (ASOC) Bureau hosted the first Wellness Outreach Worker (WOW) recognition luncheon on Friday, June 24, 2016. LACDMH headquarters was the appropriate setting for this event. Over a period of six weeks, supervisors and peers were encouraged to nominate WOW graduates in five categories. Two categories had a tie of two winners, as the judging panel said that both WOW graduates considered for recognition were outstanding.

Here are the winners in each category:

Senior WOW: Michael Starr (Rio Hondo MHC) – over 25 years as volunteer for LACDMH.



Most Innovative WOW:

Debra Gatlin
(Augustus F. Hawkins Family MHC)



Frederick Manriquez
(Northeast Wellness)



Most Improved WOW:

Lucinda Mansfield (San Fernando MHC)



Linda Chhorn (Long Beach API)



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Outstanding WOW Rookie/Newcomer: Iva Maes (American Indian Counseling Center).



Top WOW: Rosalie White (South Bay MHC)



Although this event is defined as the WOW Recognition Luncheon, ASOC Supervisor Scott Hanada described the awards best, noting, “Today’s theme is gratitude.”

Thanks go out to all the WOW Supervisors who attended the luncheon and to ASOC for their unwavering support of the program.

Special kudos to Scott Hanada, for his words of thanks and appreciation: “This is an opportunity for Isabel, Susana, Sarkis, the rest of my team, the Adult System of Care Bureau and DMH to express their deep thanks and appreciation for all you do to improve the lives of your peers and to make this department better. You all have done so much to help people, including staff, the public and fellow consumers, understand what recovery looks like and how it is possible for anyone around us, to achieve wellness.”

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The winners were selected by a panel of three DMH staff and received a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card. All WOW Graduates who were nominated received a certificate of appreciation. We had a great turnout; everyone had a wonderful fun time. We hope to make this a yearly event.

As it was said to graduates attending the event, "Next year you may be the one being recognized." Congratulations to all winners and their programs.

